

SITUATION REPORT NO. 33
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: APRIL 29, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: To date, seven people have died as a result of problems created by the winter storm and flooding.
3. DAMAGES: The city of Walhalla lost its water system late April 28 when a water main broke. The N.D. National Guard is currently assessing the situation to determine the best method for providing potable water to the city's 1,130-plus residents. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is sending porta-potties to the town.

Red River flood waters are backing up into the Pembina River, keeping that river high at Walhalla. The river at Walhalla had reached 15.9 feet on April 28, and had receded to 15.3 feet on April 29. Flood stage is 11 feet.

The Red River continues its gradual fall along North Dakota cities. The river at Pembina was at 54.65 feet, a 0.15-foot decrease during the past 24 hours. The river crested at Pembina at 54.94 feet on April 26; flood stage is 42 feet. The river at Drayton had dropped 0.47 feet during the past 24 hours to 44.27 feet. The river crested at Drayton at 45.55 feet on April 25; flood stage is 32 feet. Upstream in Grand Forks, where the gauge is out of service, the National Weather Service estimates the river level was at 46.2 feet on April 29, dropping 0.87 feet during the past 24 hours. The river at Grand Forks had crested at 54.2 feet on April 22; flood stage is 28 feet. In Fargo, the river was at 34.32 feet, a 0.34-foot decrease during the past 24 hours. The river reached 39.64 feet on April 18; flood stage is 17 feet. In Wahpeton, the river has receded to 14.4 feet, a 0.36-foot decrease during the past 24 hours. The river had crested April 4 at 19.2 feet; flood stage is 10 feet.

Stutsman County emergency management officials report that the pool elevation at Jamestown Dam is 1,445.15 feet MSL, a 5.94-foot increase since April 20. The elevation is 0.25 feet higher than the record elevation of 1,444.9 feet, set in 1996. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) expects the reservoir to crest at 1,449.0 feet MSL by May 2. The Pipestem Dam is at 1,484.29 feet MSL, a 6.06-foot increase since April 20. The elevation is 4.79 feet higher than the record elevation of 1,479.5 feet MSL, set in 1995. With the completion of installation of six clay and 13 sandbag dikes downstream, releases

have been gradually been increased to 1,650 cubic feet per second (cfs) on April 29.

To date, flood victims have received \$275,811 in emergency food stamps. The N.D. Department of Human Services approved 1,167 households, representing for 3,358 people, for the Emergency Food Stamp Program.

FEMA's National Teleregistration Center received 1,432 calls on April 28, for a total of 25,438 calls to date. Of those calls, 10,777 have applied for the Individual and Family Grant Program, a state-administered program covering necessary expenses and serious needs not covered by insurance or any other federal disaster recovery program.

A shelter survey by the N.D. Department of Health (DOH) indicated that some evacuees are experiencing respiratory illnesses, but have had no serious diseases. Fargo Community Health reported cases of myocardial infarctions, lacerations, sprains and back strains among flood fighters and evacuees.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross reports that 613 evacuees stayed at its four North Dakota shelters April 27. A total of 4,974 flood victims have been sheltered to date. The relief agency served 9,387 meals on April 27 for a total of 132,595 meals to date. Red Cross Preliminary Damage Assessment teams are currently determining the extent of flood damages.

In Jamestown, local churches are providing evening meals and companionship for evacuees. The South Central Human Service Center has also staff available to talk with evacuees.

The Walsh County Nutrition Program staff has agreed to receive donations of food, goods and money specifically donated for senior citizen flood victims.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: As part of efforts to restore the Grand Forks city water system, the Agassiz Water Users has begun supplying water to the Grand Forks Air Force Base. A line from the Agassiz supply is pumping 180 gallons per minute (gpm); plans call for the supply to be increased to 400 gpm. Crews are working to restore lines to United Hospital and to pressurize the water west of Washington Street. No time frames have been established for supplying water given the obstacles created by flooding.

N.D. State Radio Communications continues to address 911 calls from Grand Forks County residents, the majority of whom are requesting information on assistance. State Radio had initially averaged 250 911 calls from residents. That number has decreased to an average of 30 calls a day. State Radio has been handling Grand Forks 911 calls since April 18 when

flooding required the local law enforcement center to transfer responsibilities to the state agency for Grand Forks County, city of Grand Forks, Grand Forks Air Force Base and the University of North Dakota (UND). State Radio will continue to accept 911 calls for Grand Forks until the communication center there is operational.

Water distribution, aviation support, security and traffic control remain key missions for the N.D. National Guard. Of the 703 Guard members on duty on April 28, 283 were assigned to Red River Valley operations in Grand Forks, 98 to Fargo, 39 to Pembina and 16 to Drayton. Others were assisting with flood relief and carcass removal efforts throughout the state. There are 45 missions in progress, four pending and 234 completed. Counties where missions are under way include Cass, Grand Forks, Logan, McIntosh, Pembina, Sioux, Walsh and Ward.

N.D. Farm Service Agency, with the Agriculture Disaster Response Center (ADRC), will be working in the eastern third of North Dakota to identify the needs of producers and to organize the animal carcass disposal program in that area. To date, a total of 7,000 carcasses have been removed from water systems and 5,688 have been buried. State agriculture officials estimate 90,000 head of cattle perished during the storm. The ADRC has received more than 1,000 calls, with a daily average of 100, from North Dakota farmers and ranchers concerned about carcass removal, other losses and available assistance programs.

Representatives for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) will assist with flood recovery work in Grand Forks, addressing such issues as water quality assurance and safety. The N.D. Department of Health is working with the N.D. Attorney General Office to give temporary authority to federal and local environmental health practitioners to condemn flood-damaged foods.

The Grand Forks Job Service office, 1501 28th Avenue South, is scheduled to reopen at 8 a.m. April 29. The temporary office in Larimore will be closed at 5 p.m. April 29.

The N.D. Department of Human Services continues efforts to assist flood victims. The South Central Human Service Center in Jamestown will conduct five presentations on stress and grief for the Griggs Tri-County Ministry Association. The Extended Care staff from the center provides case management activities for the severely mentally ill clients, who were relocated to Jamestown during the flooding of Grand Forks. The Northeast Human Service Center provided clothing to 25 severely mentally ill clients.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: North Dakota residents with disaster-related damages can apply for individual assistance programs by contacting the National Teleregistration Center (NTC) at (800) 462-9029. The N.D. Department of Agriculture operates an Agriculture Disaster Response Center for farmers coping with damages and losses caused by the disaster. The toll-free number is (888) 337-8632. Job Service North Dakota has received approval for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. Applicants are asked to call their local Job Service office or call

(800) 472-2222.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the N.D. Division of Emergency Management, and volunteer relief agencies have established a donations coordination hotline, (800) 809-1450. Other volunteer donation hotlines are: American Red Cross, (800) FLOODND; the Salvation Army, (800) SALARMY; Seventh Day Adventists, (800) 381-7171; and United Methodist Council on Relief (UMCOR), (800) 814-8765.

The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>". The N.D. State Water Commission posts flood-related information on its Internet home page. The address is "<http://water.swc.state.nd.us>". The N.D. Department of Agriculture also posts flood-related information on its home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>". The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a "Water Control Home Page" at "<http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>". The U.S. Geological Survey's Internet home page address is: "<http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>".

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